STEWARDSHIP

THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

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CONTENT

CHAPTER 8

EXPANSION OF MASJIDDAL HARAM MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH: TRANSLATING CUSTODIANSHIP INTO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Ismawi bin Zen

8.1 BACKGROUND: MASJIDAL HARAM AND THE PERFORMANCE OF *HAJJ*

Makkah is a city founded in the most arid of locations on earth. It was said that when Sayyidina Ibrahim a.s. was ordered by Allah s.w.t. to leave his second wife, Hajjar and his son, Ismail a.s. at the spot, there was not even a plant, not even a blade of grass, that grew in the area. The soil was rocky, specifically of volcanic rocks. It was, however, the meeting point of at least four dry channels or *wadis* made up from juxtaposition of low rocky granitic and basalt hills (Fig. 8.1).